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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 651  
By Miller L

A RESOLUTION to designate August 1998 as "Minority Health Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately represented among individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the health status of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, including racial and ethnic minorities, in Tennessee is significantly lower than the health status of the general population in the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, there are disturbing disparities in mortality and morbidity between the minority and majority populations in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, minorities suffer disproportionately high rates of cancer, stroke, heart diseases, diabetes, substance abuse, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and other diseases and disorders; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of infant mortality among minorities is almost double that for the general population; and

WHEREAS, because the members of Tennessee's minority populations are such high risks for a veritable litany of health problems, many of which are fatal, state government should take all appropriate and prudent measures to encourage preventative health care and healthier lifestyles among minorities and to increase their access to relevant health-related information and quality health care; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That in the interest of promoting healthier lifestyles and greater access to quality health care for Tennessee's minority populations, August, 1998 is hereby designated "Minority Health Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, We urge and encourage all Tennesseans to observe "Minority Health Awareness Month" by participating in programs and activities that address and seek to solve the problems associated with the disproportionately high health risks experienced by minority populations and the provision of quality health care for minorities.